# Council Highlights: June 2003

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year.

This issue covers the months of May and June 2003.

**Government investments enable Ontario universities to be ready for 70,000 double cohort students**

On May 2, 2003, presidents of Ontario universities, in the company of Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, confirmed that plans are in place to accommodate 70,000 Ontario high school graduates at universities in the province this coming September.

Applications for admission to Ontario universities for fall 2003 have increased by approximately 46% over the same time in the previous year, in large part due to secondary school reform, which finds university-bound students from the former curriculum and the new curriculum seeking admission at the same time. Approximately 102,000 Ontario secondary school students have applied for admission to an Ontario university this fall. If the historical proportion of applicants to registrants is maintained, approximately 68% of these applicants will end up registering at an Ontario university, resulting in an incoming class of almost 70,000 students.
Ontario universities now have plans to provide places for these students. Collectively, the universities are committing to accommodate 70,000 students from Ontario secondary schools.

The announcement represents the successful completion of a multi-staged planning process to provide all qualified students with the opportunity to pursue a university education. Enrolment Target Agreements (ETAs) between each university and the government outline the specific number of additional students that each university is committed to enrolling.

The government's SuperBuild Program has enabled universities to make significant improvements to the quality of the physical facilities for the double cohort, just as the new Quality Assurance Fund will enable them to hire more professors and staff and expand the learning resources that are available for growing numbers of students. When added to the significant investments in Ontario universities over the past three years, these commitments will provide a substantial quality boost to university education in Ontario. They will also enhance the research and innovation capacity of the province.

**Federal research funding agencies represented at annual OCUR meeting**

On May 15, 2003, the Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR) held its annual meeting in Ottawa to consult with heads of the major federal research funding agencies. Guests were Dr. Marc Renaud, President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; Dr. David Strangway, President of the Canada Foundation on Innovation; Dr. Alan Bernstein, President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; and Mr. Andrei Sulzenko, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Industry Canada. Discussions focused on the need to enhance federal support of university research, the priorities of each funding council, and the role of Industry Canada in leading the innovation agenda.

**Guelph University President and Chair of Council winding down duties**

On July 15, 2003, Mordechai Rozanski, University of Guelph=s longest-serving President as well

as a member of the university's Board of Governors and Chair of its Senate, will step down from the position that he has held for 10 years. Dr. Rozanski will assume the presidency of Rider University, N.J., effective August 1, 2003.
A graduate of McGill University with a BA in history, Dr. Rozanski received his PhD in 1974 from the University of Pennsylvania, where he began his teaching career as a lecturer in American-East Asian Relations. He has been a Lily Fellow at Stanford and an American-East Asian Relations Fellow at Columbia University and spent some 29 years as a professor and administrator in universities and colleges in the United States.
For the past two years, Dr. Rozanski has also served as Chair of Council. Additionally, he has chaired the COU=s Standing Committees on Educational and Employment Equity and on Government and Community Relations. The period during which Dr. Rozanski served as chair has been marked by the greatest demand for admission in over 30 years to a university community still reeling from years of funding restraint. Under his leadership, the universities - through an exemplary four-year long working relationship with government - emerged renewed by significant government investment, and ready to provide 70,000 first-year students with access to a quality education.

In May 2002, Dr. Rozanski was named head of the governments Education Equality Task Force, which was charged with reviewing Ontario's $14.3 billion funding formula for the province's K-12 public education system involving two million students and 5,000 schools. After a rigorous consultative process, the Task Force recommended $1.8 billion in new investments in Ontario schools. Within days of the release of his report, *Investing in Public Education: Advancing the Goal of Continuous Improvement in Student Learning and Achievement*, the government announced an investment of $610 million in schools as the first response to what has been coined "the Rozanski report."

Dr. Rozanski will be succeeded by Dr. Richard Van Loon, President of Carleton University, as Chair of Council, effective July 1, 2003.

**Report of Task Force on Student Interuniversity Athletics presented**

The Ontario Commission on Interuniversity Athletics created a Task Force on Student Interuniversity Athletics, chaired by Dr. William Leggett, Principal of Queen's University, to review the role and state of interuniversity sport in Ontario. After developing a statement of principles governing student involvement in interuniversity athletics, the Task Force consulted a wide group of stakeholders, including university athletic directors, student athletes and interested external parties, and found a strong consensus for its statement. Its report was presented to Council at its May 23rd meeting.

**Search process begins for Application Centre executive director**

COU is undertaking a search for an executive director to lead OUAC, which is responsible for the delivery of a highly cost-effective and efficient centralized admissions application processing service for all of Ontario's universities. The ideal candidate should possess a commitment to the missions of universities and the cause of higher education, and an appreciation of the way in which universities operate in Ontario and the policy issues that influence their operations. Experience in senior levels of university admissions and registrarial services would be desirable, while strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. For a copy of the advertisement, visit www.cou.on.ca.

**Council bids farewell to several members**

At its year-end meeting, Council bid farewell to two Executive Heads and seven Academic Colleagues:

- Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, President of the University of Guelph and Chair of Council

- Dr. David Marshall, President of Nipissing University
- Prof. Dennis Forcese, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University
- Dr. Maureen Mancuso, Associate Vice-President, Academic, University of Guelph
- Dr. Jocelyn Aubrey, Department of Psychology, Trent University
- Dr. Mary Thompson, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Waterloo
- Prof. Terry Copp, Department of History, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Dr. Shelagh Towson, Head of the Department of Psychology, University of Windsor
- Dr. Catherine Wild, Dean of Foundation Studies, Ontario College of Art & Design

**Bank of Canada Governor named recipient of 2003 OPAS Visionary Award**

The Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills (OPAS) has announced that Dr. David A. Dodge, Governor of the Bank of Canada, will be the recipient of the 2003 Visionary Award and the featured speaker at the 2003 Visionary Seminar on November 17, 2003. This year's seminar is the seventh in a series of Visionary seminars presented by OPAS and its university partners. It will be presented live at Carleton University to an in-house audience of faculty, students and local business leaders. In addition, all Ontario universities have been invited to participate in the seminar via satellite and simultaneous web cast. Individual universities are also encouraged to organize activities on their respective campuses as a vehicle for further dialogue with local business and community leaders.

**Second phase of curriculum integrating gender and health underway**

The Undergraduate Education and Gender Issues committees of the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine have completed Phase I, the needs assessment and plan development, of the Gender in Medical Education project. The Ontario Women's Health Council has funded the project, which involves developing a collaborative, web-enabled medical curriculum that integrates gender and health, and has approved an additional $629,000 for Phases II and III. Phase II, which has just begun, will see the development and implementation of a gender and health curriculum over a two-year period and will overlap with Phase III, the evaluation, which will begin in July 2003 and run to the end of the project (summer 2005). All Ontario medical schools will have access to this integrated curriculum. For a copy of the *Phase I Final Report, Gender in Medical Education: A Collaborative Curriculum Project*, visit the COU Office of Health Sciences web site (www.cou.on.ca/health/welcome.html).

**Second series of working papers by Academic Colleagues near completion**

Academic Colleagues devote a major part of their activity to developing working papers. Last year they produced *Working Paper Series, Volume I* (available on the COU web site), and this year are proceeding on three papers that focus on quality. One paper has been finalized; another is in the final stages of drafting; and the third is still in the early stages of preparation and will be discussed at the Academic Colleagues' meeting in late May. Once all papers are finalized, the set will be issued as *Working Paper Series, Volume II* and will be posted on the COU web site (www.cou.on.ca) by early summer.

**Three financial reports on Ontario universities now available**

COU has produced, under the auspices of the Council of Finance Officers-Universities of Ontario (COFO-UO), the following yearly updates of financial and statistical information on Ontario universities:

- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 2001-02, Volume I - Universities*
- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 2001-02, Volume II - Affiliated and Federated Colleges and Universities*
- *Compendium of Statistical and Financial Information - Ontario Universities 2001-02*

Sometime in early summer, the COFO-UO Financial Reporting Committee will hold its fourth annual information session for representatives of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities that will provide an update on significant revisions and interpretation of the financial reports.

The *Compendium*, which provides a broad spectrum of data including financial information, is available on the COU web site (www.cou.on.ca).

**COU publishes its *Biennial Report***

COU recently published its *Biennial Report 2000-2002*, which provides an in-depth summary of joint university-government efforts to prepare for the first wave of double cohort students, as well as highlights the many rewards that investment in higher education reaps. The publication also covers in detail the work of Council during the report's two-year period under the categories of new directions, studies, surveys and special publications; noteworthy events and activities; and organizational efficiencies. For a copy of the *Biennial Report*, visit the COU web site (www.cou.on.ca).

**Report summarizing 2001 application statistics published**

COU also published its annual summary report, *Application Statistics 2001*, which is prepared from data provided by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre and which presents application and registration data for fall 2001. This report is based solely on students who applied through the Centre for full-time, first year admission to an Ontario university. In 2001, a total of 92,863 applicants applied to Ontario universities, and 51,555 registered at an Ontario university. The number of applicants increased by 7.9% from 2000; the number of registered applicants increased by 6.4%. For a copy of the report, visit the COU web site (www.cou.on.ca).